

Risk Assessment

Site safety & Risk of abscondment

Our provision is based on a 150-acre nature reserve, bounded by stock fencing & gates that allow access to our Hub boundary. If a young person (YP) is referred into our service who has a history of abscondment in their current or previous settings, this must be explored during their Needs Assessment so that all staff can be made aware of the YP's flight response triggers. This helps us implement boundaries to reduce the risk of abscondment during provision hours. Often, YP who are known to abscond from a school setting, don't display the same behaviour whilst accessing our provision. Our approach is therapeutic in its nature with a high staff:learner ratio, allowing for subtle changes in mood or behaviour to be identified and addressed in a timely manner.

Identified Risk	Implications				Risk Before Action Taken			Action Required	Risk After Action Taken		
	Staff	Community	Other YP	Self	High	Medium	Low		High	Medium	Low
Members of the general public/access to our delivery site								<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full supervision during activities. • Safeguarding Policy and Procedures to be followed. • Ensure gates are closed when entering and exiting the Hub • No members of the general public allowed to enter the boundary of our site during provision hours, unless agreed & planned in advance. 			
Learner with a history of abscondment								<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure BSTSCIC staff have adequate information from 			

								<p>referral agencies in relation to the YP's history of attempts to abscond from other settings and the corresponding triggers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Breathing Space team to carry out a Needs Assessment with the YP and parent/carer, with a school representative present when possible so that further information can be gathered and provision boundaries explained to the YP.• Referral school to visit the Breathing Space site prior to placing a child with a risk of absconding, in order to make an informed decision			
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Breathing Space Therapeutic Services CIC

								prior to placing the YP with us.			
Lack of security fencing to prevent abscondment when working within the boundary of the Breathing Space Hub.								<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure all young people are aware of our designated "Safe Spaces" so that they can access them if/when they become dysregulated and feel the need to flee the group. • Full staff supervision of YP during activities on and off site. • Ensure all staff working with YP are aware of triggers that have previously led to the YP's flight response being triggered so that appropriate measures can be put in place to reduce likelihood of triggering 			

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								similar responses during provision hours.			
Triggering the YP's flight response during provision hours								<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All staff to be aware of YP's flight response triggers Ensure our Safe Spaces have been explained to the YP during the assessment stage If a YP decides to flee, and exits our Hub boundary, one member of staff must attempt to follow the YP to ensure their whereabouts are known and attempts to co-regulate can be made. <i>This can only take place if the rest of the group is well regulated and deemed manageable for supervision by the remaining staff member.</i> 			

								<ul style="list-style-type: none">If, despite efforts to co-regulate or in circumstances whereby the YP poses a risk to themselves and/or others by fleeing into the park, refusing to allow staff to co-regulate, then parent/carer must be informed, along with the referral school or agency. Dependant on the information gained following these phone calls the police may be contacted and the YP reported missing.			
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